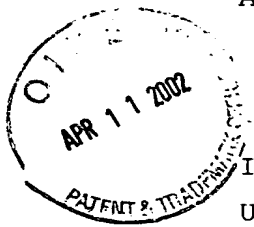


2622#7

Attorney Docket No.: 15162/04270



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re

U.S. Application of: Yoshihiro HARA and Rieko IZUME
For: IMAGING APPARATUS
Confirmation No.: 4716
U.S. Serial No. 10/054,160
Filed: January 22, 2002
Group Art Unit: 2622
Examiner: To Be Assigned

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Technology Center 2600

Assistant Director
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Director for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on

APRIL 1, 2002

Date of Deposit

JAMES W. WILLIAMS

Name of Applicant, Assignee, or Registered Representative

James W. Williams
Signature

APRIL 1, 2002

Date of Signature

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants wish to bring the following items to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of the documents are enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

No representation is made, and no representation is intended, that more relevant material does not exist, or that the order of presentation of this material in any way reflects its relative pertinence. The references cited below are not intended to constitute an admission of any kind. Specifically, this presentation is not an admission that the items listed below are properly citable against the above-identified application.

Serial No. 10/054,160

The following documents are cited in the specification of the above-identified patent application:

- (1) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 11-136568 (FUJI PHOTO FILM CO LTD), published May 21, 1999; and
- (2) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 11-298768 (SONY CORP), published October 29, 1999.

Applicants also wish to bring the following documents to the attention of the Examiner:

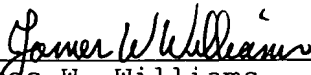
- (3) Nakamura, U.S. Patent No. 5,309,228, issued May 3, 1994; and
- (4) Hara et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,067,420, issued May 23, 2000.

Applicants consider the invention to be distinguishable over the above-cited documents.

As this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever occurs last, no fee is required. If it should be determined that a fee is required, please charge any required fee (other than the issue fee) during the pendency of this application to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Serial No. 10/054,160

Respectfully submitted,



James W. Williams
Registration No. 20,047
Attorney for Applicants

JWW/mhg
SIDLEY AUSTIN BROWN & WOOD LLP
717 North Harwood
Suite 3400
Dallas, Texas 75201-6507
(214) 981-3328 (direct)
(214) 981-3300 (main)
April 1, 2002

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT		Application Number	10/054,160
		Confirmation No.	4716
		Filing Date	January 22, 2002
		First Inventor	Yoshihiro HARA et al.
		Group Art Unit	2622
		Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
Sheet 1 of 1	Attorney Docket No.	15162/04270	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite #	DOCUMENT NUMBER	C O D E	PATENTEE	ISSUE DATE (mm/dd/yy)	CLASS	SUB CLASS	Filing Date if Appropriate
	(3)	5,309,228		Nakamura	05/03/94	358	500	
	(4)	6,067,420		Hara et al.	05/23/00	396	55	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials		O F F I C E	NUMBER	C O D E	PUBLICATION DATE (mm/dd/yy)	TRANSLATION Yes No
	(1)	JP	11-136568	A	05/21/99	ABSTRACT ONLY
	(2)	JP	11-298768	A	10/29/99	ABSTRACT ONLY

OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with the next communication to applicant.